



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Cypress
National Preserve

33100 Tamiami Trail East
Ochopee, Florida 34141

239-695-1107 phone
239-695-3901 fax

Big Cypress ORV Permit Guidelines

It is a 3-Step Process to obtain an off-road vehicle permit for use of an ATV, Airboats, Swamp Buggy or Street Legal - 4 X 4, in the Big Cypress National Preserve: **1) an operator's permit (free), 2) an inspection sticker (free), and 3) an annual vehicle permit (\$50.00 per year) are required.** Motorcycles and other two-wheeled motorized vehicles are not permitted in the preserve backcountry.

The ORV Permitting Office is located within the Big Cypress National Preserve Oasis Visitor Center. The office hours are Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

EXPLANATIONS

1) Operator's Permit

In order to get this identification card, you must come to the Big Cypress Visitor Center at Oasis, located halfway between Naples and Miami on Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail). Bring your **valid state driver's license or learner's permit (required)**. **Note** — Those who have a learner's permit must be accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years or older (while operating an ORV) who also possess a Big Cypress National Preserve ORV operator's permit. **Unlicensed drivers are not permitted to operate ORVs in Big Cypress.**

You will be shown a presentation and your photo will be taken. ORV staff will produce an operator's permit card while you watch the video. You are required to carry the operator's permit with you whenever you are operating an ORV in the Preserve.

It is extremely important that you provide the staff with current address, telephone and email (if available) information so that we may send you mail with important updates on trails, regulations, and ORV related news.

This part of the permit process will take approximately 45 minutes.

2) Vehicle Inspection Sticker

Bring your vehicle in to the visitor center on Fri, Sat, Sun, or Mon 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. The inspection sticker is valid for 3 years, at which time, the vehicle will need a reinspection. ORV staff will inspect your vehicle under the following guidelines:

ORV REQUIREMENTS

ATV 3 and 4 Wheelers

Front Tires minimum of 7" tread face.
Rear Tires minimum of 9" tread face.
Working white Headlight
Working Red Tail Light
Muffler
VIN#
PROOF OF TITLE (State Law Requirement)

Airboat

Working White Aft Light to be seen 360'
Current State Registration Decal
Hull Length 14' max excluding grass rake
Width 8' max
Muffler (automotive style. See www.myfwc.com for details)
Minimum of 3" FL #'s displayed on each side of bow
- OR -
Minimum of 6" FL #'s displayed on both sides of rudders
Orange Safety Flag 10x12" or larger – flown at minimum 10 feet
above vessel
Fire Extinguisher
PFD (Life Jackets) for each occupant
Port and Starboard lights (Coast Guard Requirement)

Swamp Buggy

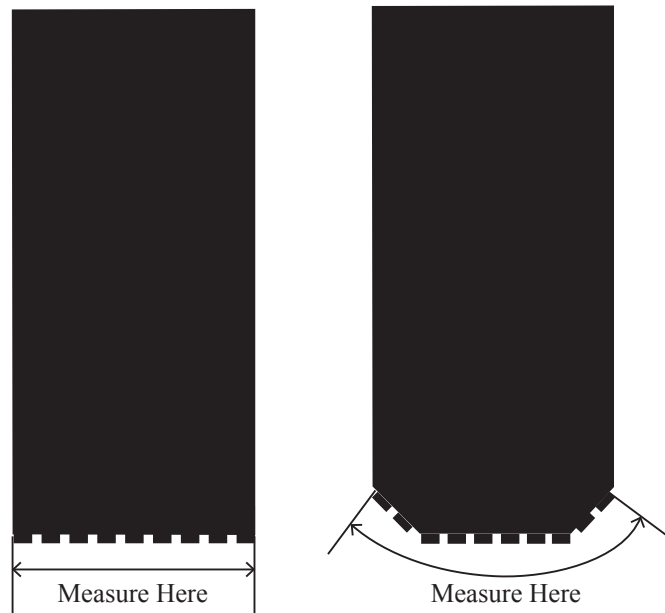
All Tires minimum of 9" tread face.
Working White Headlights
Working Red Tail Light
Muffler
Width 8' max
Weight (will be weighed at inspection)
Must not be registered or licensed for highway use

Street Legal 4x4

Tires minimum of 9" tread face
Working White Headlights
Working Red Tail Lights
VIN#
Muffler
Weight (will be weighed at inspection)
Registration/Insurance

Measuring Tire Tread Width

Measure tread width from edge to edge along face



Tread Face – That portion of the outer surface of the tire that actually makes contact with the trail substrate during normal use. This includes those portions of tread which extend onto the sides of the tire since they are designed as such to aid in cornering and in soft ground are load bearing.

Measurement of Tread Face – Tread Face will be measured using a flexible tape measure capable of conforming to a rounded surface. The measurement will be from one edge of the tread face to the other, along the flat or rounded tread surface of the tire as viewed in cross – section.

3) Annual Vehicle Permit

Once you have obtained an operator's permit and your vehicle has passed the inspection and received an inspection sticker, you may then purchase the \$50.00 annual ORV permit. **These permits are valid from January 1 of each year to January 31 of the following year - a thirteen-month period, however, they are NOT prorated from the date of purchase.** This means that whatever your date of purchase is, the permit will still expire on January 31, and therefore it is more economical to purchase it early in the year! Permits go on sale mid-December of each year and 2,000 permits are available each year. All permit sales are on a first-come, first-served basis at this time, but a drawing system may be used as demand approaches the 2,000 permit limit. **Permits are not transferable between vehicles.**

It is strongly advised that you call the visitor center at 239-695-1205 before you bring your vehicle in. We may be able to save you time and extra trips with a brief conversation before your visit.